

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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RECORD PURSES ON TAP FOR CHURCHILL DOWNS' 145TH SPRING MEET

First Condition Book Up 46% from 2018, Offers Unprecedented \$20.1 Million in Prize Money

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019) – Record prize money for horsemen will be distributed at Churchill Downs' 145th Spring Meet thanks to early returns from state-of-the-art historical racing machines at Derby City Gaming.

The first condition book, which covers the first half of the 38-day Spring Meet, was released Wednesday, and purses for the 189 offered races total \$20.1 million – an unprecedented 46% increase from last spring's \$13.7 million. The daily average is \$1,056,842 compared to \$722,579 in 2018, or \$106,243 per race versus \$72,640. All purses include prize money from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund.

Purses for all six days of racing on Derby Week (April 27-May 4) have been supercharged. In years past, only the purses on Oaks and Derby days were boosted. Maiden special weight races will be \$100,000. Allowance races will range from \$103,000 to \$110,000. Total purses on Oaks Day will exceed \$3.6 million, and Derby Day prize money will be worth a record \$6.9 million.

After Derby Week, maiden special weight races will be worth \$85,000 (up from \$53,000 in 2018), and allowance races will range from \$87,000 to \$94,000 (up from \$55,000 to \$61,000 in 2018). The daily prize money post-Derby Week will average \$525,308 compared to \$356,769 in 2018, or \$55,975 per race versus \$38,016 a year ago.

In a change from last year, the winner's share of the purse in all overnight races will be 56% (previously 60%) and 1.5% of the purse will be distributed to the sixth- through last-place finishers (previously 0.5%) to incentivize starts and reward owners who run their horses.

More than \$30 million in total prize money – \$12 million in stakes races and another \$18 million in overnight races – is expected to be offered during this year's Spring Meet. Last year, total purses paid during the 372-race Spring Meet was \$22.2 million.

"This is such an exciting time to be a part of Kentucky racing," said Churchill Downs Racetrack President **Kevin Flanery**. "Our investment into Derby City Gaming, which opened just five months ago, continues to pay immediate dividends to Kentucky horsemen. We have reinforced our Derby Week festival concept, solidified our lucrative stakes program and tremendously strengthened our overnight racing product. We truly believe this growth and methodology will benefit all owners, trainers and jockeys that participate at Churchill Downs and make for an extremely exciting and competitive meet."

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With 75 total racing dates in 2019, Churchill Downs will offer more racing opportunities for horsemen than any other racetrack in Kentucky and increase its purses with more than an additional \$10 million as a result of handle generated by Derby City Gaming's initial year of operation. The \$65 million facility opened in mid-September at nearby 4520 Poplar Level Road.

Earlier this year, Churchill Downs announced a record 34-race, \$12.2 million Spring Meet stakes schedule that included a \$1 million boost to the 145th running of the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) on Saturday, May 4, making it worth a guaranteed \$3 million. Also among the 15 stakes races that received significant increases were the Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI), which was raised to \$1.25 million, and the Old Forester Turf Classic (GI), which was doubled to \$1 million.

Stall applications for the highly-anticipated Spring Meet, which will begin Saturday, April 27 and continue through Saturday, June 29, are due Friday, March 8. The stable area will reopen Tuesday, March 19 and the first scheduled day of training is Friday, March 22.

View the condition book online: <https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/racing/condition-book/>.

2019 CHURCHILL DOWNS SPRING MEET STAKES SCHEDULE

Day/Date	Running	Grade	Purse	Race	Age/Sex	Distance	Surface
Saturday, April 27	5 th		\$125,000	William Walker (Listed)	3yo	5 F	Turf
Tuesday, April 30	1 st		\$115,000	Champions Day Marathon Overnight Stakes	3&up	1 ½ M	Dirt
Wednesday, May 1	26 th		\$125,000	Kentucky Juvenile	2yo	5 F	Dirt
Thursday, May 2	9 th		\$125,000	Unbridled Sidney	3&up f/m	5 ½ F	Turf
Thursday, May 2	14 th		\$115,000	Opening Verse Overnight Stakes	3&up	1 M	Turf
Friday, May 3	145 th	I	\$1,250,000	Longines Kentucky Oaks	3yo f	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Friday, May 3	34 th	I	\$500,000	La Troienne	4&up f/m	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Friday, May 3	16 th	II	\$400,000	Alysheba	4&up	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Friday, May 3	64 th	II	\$250,000	Eight Belles	3yo f	7 F	Dirt
Friday, May 3	25 th	II	\$250,000	Twin Spires Turf Sprint	3&up	5 ½ F	Turf
Friday, May 3	35 th	III	\$250,000	Edgewood presented by Forcht Bank	3yo f	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, May 4	145 th	I	\$3,000,000	Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve	3yo	1 ¼ M	Dirt
Saturday, May 4	33 rd	I	\$1,000,000	Old Forester Turf Classic	4&up	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, May 4	85 th	I	\$500,000	Churchill Downs	4&up	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 4	33 rd	I	\$500,000	Humana Distaff	4&up f/m	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 4	34 th	II	\$400,000	Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile	4&up f/m	1 M	Turf
Saturday, May 4	28 th	II	\$400,000	American Turf presented by Ram Trucks	3yo	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, May 4	95 th	III	\$400,000	Pat Day Mile presented by LG&E and KU	3yo	1 M	Dirt
Saturday, May 11	1 st		\$100,000	Mamzelle Overnight Stakes	3yo f	5 F	Turf
Saturday, May 18	82 nd	III	\$100,000	Louisville	3&up	1 ½ M	Turf
Saturday, May 25	16 th	III	\$100,000	Winning Colors	3&up f/m	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 25	7 th		\$100,000	Keertana Overnight Stakes	3&up f/m	1 ½ M	Turf
Saturday, June 1	31 st		\$100,000	Aristides (Listed)	3&up	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 1	4 th		\$100,000	Mighty Beau Overnight Stakes	3&up	5 F	Turf
Saturday, June 8	43 rd	III	\$100,000	Old Forester Mint Julep	3&up f/m	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, June 15	38 th	II	\$600,000	Stephen Foster	3&up	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 15	44 th	II	\$250,000	Fleur de Lis	3&up f/m	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 15	30 th	II	\$250,000	Wise Dan	3&up	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, June 15	22 nd	III	\$150,000	Matt Winn	3yo	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 15	50 th	III	\$150,000	Regret	3yo f	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, June 22	10 th		\$100,000	Roxelana Overnight Stakes	3&up f/m	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 29	118 th	III	\$100,000	Bashford Manor	2yo	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 29	119 th		\$100,000	Debutante (Listed)	2yo f	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 29	10 th		\$100,000	Kelly's Landing Overnight Stakes	3&up	7 F	Dirt

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